

*Co. Hist.
Pocahontas*

February 26, 1940

Mr. Calvin T. Price, Editor
Pocahontas Times
Marlinton, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Price:

Some weeks ago we wrote to members of your County Court and the Board of Education explaining our proposal to prepare a History of Pocahontas County. The school board has indicated that it will sponsor half of the printing cost if the county court will assume the other half.

Our Mr. Becker, who discussed the matter with you, advised that you would take up the proposal with the county court at its next meeting. Assuming that the court has had another meeting, we are curious to know what the situation is by now.

We appreciate your efforts in our behalf, and trust the court will soon approve the project so that we can retain the two research workers already assigned in your county. May we hear from you?

Thanking you, we are

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Crawford
State Supervisor

BC/alb

cc - Juanita E. Dilley
Nelle Y. McLaughlin

*Co. 175
Focahontas*

January 25, 1940

Mr. Calvin Price, Editor
The Focahontas Times
Marlinton, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Price:

The West Virginia Writers' Project is engaged in a long-term statewide program designed to be of service to communities and localities within the state. A large part of this program includes the writing of histories of the various counties, a matter concerning which we have communicated with you before.

We are highly interested in writing a history of Focahontas County, especially since our records show that no such volume has been published since 1901, indicating that a history of your county would be a real contribution to the contemporary lore of the state. On January 4, last, we received from E. S. Clutter, Superintendent of Schools, official notice that the Focahontas County Board of Education would underwrite half of the cost of a history project in the county.

According to the Federal regulations which govern the operation of this project, it is necessary for us to have local sponsorship when we place field workers in any county. Being interested in the prospects in Focahontas, we have employed Juanita S. Milley of Clover Lick and Mrs. Belle Y. McLaughlin of Marlinton to do the preliminary research. If we do not reach a local sponsorship agreement for the other half of the printing cost, it may be necessary for us to end our work in the county and lay off these workers; if we can get the required sponsorship, however, we shall employ two additional certified workers in the county, as we find that gathering material for a county history requires the efforts of four local people. This sponsorship of which we speak is represented in the enclosed Application for Permission to Publish.

In many counties we have history projects under way with the sponsorship of the County Court, or the Court and the Board of Education jointly. In some counties the Board of Education is bearing the cost of printing alone, intending to use the history as a text in the public schools. Having received notice of part sponsorship from the School Board of your county, we have in mind asking you to speak in our behalf at the next meeting of the County Court, in an effort to obtain their co-sponsorship.

Mr. Calvin Price

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January 25, 1940

The Application for Permission to Publish enclosed herein is directed to the Board of Education, since this body has already signified approval of the undertaking. If the County Court approves the proposal, and agrees to co-sponsor the publication to the extent of underwriting one-half of the printing cost, the Court need only notify the Board officially. The President of the Board can then sign the Application and the Board of Education will be the sponsor, but the two bodies will have equal interest. We suggest this procedure because the regulation sponsorship form makes no provision for joint sponsorship by two public bodies.

Given sponsorship, we will be in a position to assign more workers in the county and to continue our efforts until the manuscript is completed, about 14 months from now. Upon completion of the manuscript we would submit it to local people for checking to avoid errors in fact, and to insure such treatment of the subject matter as would be acceptable to Pocahontas County residents. The cost of publishing the book would be variable, but would probably be \$1,000 for 500 copies of 400 pages. This cost is being met in some other counties by subscription in advance of publication, the book retailing for \$2.50 per copy. Inasmuch as the book will treat exclusively of local people and local events, there will likely be a great demand for the book as soon as its publication is announced.

In this way there should be no necessity for any cash expenditure by the sponsors, and the county would gain a published history compiled by local people who would otherwise be unemployed.

We appreciate very much your assistance in this matter, and we anticipate with some pleasure the possibility of writing a history of Pocahontas County. If you so desire, we would be glad to explain any phase of the matter in more detail.

Yours truly,

State Supervisor

DC/cbs

Enc. 1 Appl. for Perm. to Pub. form.

Copies - John F. Hannah

I. S. Clutter

Helle I. McLaughlin

Juanita S. Lilley

E. S. Smith, Jr.

F. A. Fritchard

H. C. Smith

*C. H. ...
Pocahontas*



POCAHONTAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

January 6, 1940
Superintendent
MARLINTON, WEST VIRGINIA

JANUARY 4, 1940

Mr. E. S. Clutter
Superintendent of Schools
Pocahontas County
Marlinton, West Virginia

Mr. Bruce Crawford, Supervisor
West Virginia State Project,
312 State Building,
Charleston, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Clutter:

We are gratified to know that the Board of Education has decided to underwrite half of the printing cost of the proposed history of Pocahontas County.

At a meeting of the Board of Education the following was taken:

We note that the action of the Board has been reported to the County Court for its consideration, with the view of having the Board underwrite the other half of the cost.

We would appreciate it if you would explain to Mr. Z. S. Smith, Jr., President of the County Court, that actual outlay of any funds for printing the book would not be required until after completion and approval of the manuscript, which would probably be eight or ten months hence. It is quite possible, as we have indicated before, that advance orders for copies of the history could be received in sufficient amount to defray a part, if not all, of the printing cost.

Again we appreciate your favorable action in this matter and trust that the County Court can see its way clear to joining you in what we believe will prove to be a most profitable undertaking for all concerned.

Mr. Smith has asked me to tell you that the county court is interested in this project and that the only reason for their hesitation in sponsoring is a financial one. He stated that the county court has several other projects now which have been approved but which they have not been able to put into operation.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Crawford
Chief State Supervisor

BC/mlb
cc - Mrs. Nelle Y. McLaughlin

Sincerely yours,

E. S. Clutter